GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2149
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Rheumatic Arthritis
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the risk of Rheumatic Arthritis and Gout has increases due to low quality air;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the cities where the risk of these ailments has increased due to air pollution;

(c) whether the Government has made any separate arrangements for treatment of such patients and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has prepared any policy/programme to reduce or eliminate the air pollution, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): There is no evidence of any causal relationship between Rheumatoid Arthritis and Gout and quality of air.
(b): Does not arise.
(c): Patients suffering from Rheumatoid Arthritis and Gout are treated in the medicine Department or in the Department of Rheumatology where it has been established. Most larger Government hospitals have medicine Department.
(d): As informed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the major steps being taken by the Government to control air pollution inter alia include the following:
I. Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
II. Formulation of environmental regulations/statutes;
III. Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;

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IV. Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blend etc;
V. Promotion of cleaner production processes.
VI. Launching of National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015;
VII. Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
VIII. Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
IX. Taxing polluting vehicles and incentivizing hybrid and electric vehicles;
X. Comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste notified;
XI. Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;
XII. Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of carpooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
XIII. Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standard for prevention and control of pollution from industries;
XIV. Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR;
XV. Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1) (b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
XVI. Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.

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